



Hello Friends,

In my most important legislative accomplishment to date, I am happy to announce that Governor Schwarzenegger has signed **AB 808**. Assemblymember Todd Spitzer (R-Orange) was a principal co-sponsor. Assemblymember Spitzer's former Chief of Staff, Stephen Ambriz, was killed by a drunk driver in 2006. The bill is named in his honor. The bill moved easily through the State Legislature with bi-partisan support.

In 2004, I authored AB 2173 which required the court to advise a person convicted of a DUI offense that driving under the influence is dangerous and could result in the charge of murder if someone is killed. Requiring this advisory statement makes it easier for prosecutors to prove implied malice, a necessary element of second degree murder, when a DUI offense results in a fatality.

I introduced AB 808 to build on the success of AB 2173. Implied consent will provide prosecutors irrefutable evidence in court, in the form of a signed document, that a defendant knew the dangers of drinking and driving and drove while intoxicated anyway.

This bill would require each person getting a driver's license to sign a statement indicating they know driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is dangerous and could result in death. If they choose to drive while intoxicated anyway and kill a person in the process, this bill would allow prosecutors to prove they acted maliciously and not just recklessly.

Supporters of AB 808 include the California Highway Patrol and the California District Attorneys Association. Statistics demonstrate the unfortunate number of drunk drivers. Last year, the California Highway Patrol made 94,250 DUI arrests. Of those arrests, 13,765 were in the Central Valley, including 5,024 DUI arrests in Kern County alone.

My personal inspiration has been **Carla Pearson of Bakersfield**, whose son Adam was tragically killed by a drunk driver. Carla has been with me every step of the way with this bill and her perseverance and commitment to saving lives is truly remarkable.

---

**What's Happening in Sacramento**

### **Special Session Update...**

On October 9, 2007 the Senate failed to reach agreement on a water deal, which will likely signal the end of efforts to arrive at a deal during the current special legislative session on water. Earlier in the week the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water passed Democratic legislation by President Pro Tempore Don Perata, on a party-line vote, and rejected the Schwarzenegger Administration measure, backed by Senator Cogdill. Despite passing out of policy committee, the Pro Tempore's legislation did not secure any Republican votes on the Senate floor and thus fell four votes short of passage. If the Legislature is to place an initiative on the February presidential primary ballot, the Secretary of State has set October 16, 2007 as the deadline for agreement. If an agreement is not reached by October 16th, it is likely competing water initiatives will be circulated for signatures to be placed on the November 2008 ballot.

### **Gov. Signs Bills in Final Days...**

The Governor had until October 14 to sign or veto bills. Among some of the more important bills:

**AB 7** – Assemblymember Ted Lieu authored this bill in support of our State's servicemen and women, as it will provide protections against predatory lending in an effort to safeguard military personnel and their families from prevalent and yet highly unethical loan terms, financial service offerings, and otherwise unscrupulous lending practices specifically targeted toward our State's military personnel.

**SB 223** – This bill, authored by Senator Mike Machado, will make it a crime for licensed appraisers to engage in any appraisal activity that is connected to the purchase, sale, transfer, financing or development of property if their compensation is impacted by the final price generated by the appraisal, thus protecting current or prospective homeowners from unjust increases in prices or fees during the sale or purchase of a property.

**SB 868** – Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas carried this bill, which aims to protect those receiving in-home supportive services by requiring that individuals in this profession, and who are offering care to home-bound individuals such as the elderly or disabled, to undergo a criminal background check in the interest of protecting this vulnerable population in California.

**SB 116** – Senator Abel Maldonado authored this bill in an effort to alleviate the economic impact of this year's major crop freeze by allowing agricultural laborers to earn an increased amount of wages while concurrently collecting unemployment insurance benefits, under specified conditions, which will offer some stability to the hundred of displaced workers in California agricultural industry.

**Anti-Gang Legislation** – Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed five bills last week designed to thwart gang violence in California after a rise in gang-related crimes in Southern California last year and a series of high-profile killings. The Governor signed legislation to create a new statewide Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy, force parents of gang members to attend anti-violence classes and enable incarcerated youths to communicate with family members. Other bills he signed will make it easier for landlords to evict gang offenders and will give the state attorney general

more authority to coordinate witness relocation efforts.

---

### **My Legislative Highlights**

I am happy to announce the Governor signed **AB 1359**, a bill that is both good for our economy and for our environment. I introduced AB 1359 at the request of the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance (CCEEB), a coalition of California business, labor and public leaders seeking a sound economy and healthy environment. The bill moved easily through the State Legislature with bi-partisan support. AB 1359 allows highly-refined dielectric mineral oil to be recycled, instead of disposed in a hazardous waste dump. This is an effort to reduce the amount of material being placed in hazardous waste disposal facilities and reduce operating costs for a number of utilities around the State.

The **Assembly Committee on Agriculture**, which I am proud to Chair, introduced five bills in 2007 that have been signed by the Governor. These Committee bills were authored by most or all of the Committee Members, and dealt with a variety of issues from brand inspection to milk safety. California's agricultural industry is faced with increasing regulatory costs posing a financial burden on the Valley's farming community, coupled with the need for consumers to be assured a safe and affordable food supply. I am pleased to announce successful passage of an agriculture bill package that takes into account the need for regulatory changes and the need to protect the consumers of California's agricultural products.

**AB 472** (Agriculture) was sponsored by the California Cattlemen's Association and raised the statutory fees for brand inspections on hides and cattle in order to fund these activities by the Department of Food and Agriculture. All cattle must be inspected for proper branding and ownership prior to their movement and at slaughter. This is a critical program that the industry funds to protect against theft. The Livestock Identification Branch within the Department is overseen by an advisory board of industry members which reviews the budgets and activities of the Branch. "We would like to thank Governor Schwarzenegger, Assembly Agriculture Committee Chair Parra and the rest of the Agriculture committee for their support of AB 472," commented Bruce Hafenfeld, president of the California Cattlemen's Association. "This important legislation will assist in making the Bureau of Livestock Identification, brand inspection program more efficient and ensure that this important service continues to be available to California's cattle producers

**AB 1713** (Agriculture) was sponsored the County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association and updated the funding of both the Commissioners and the Department of Food and Agriculture. This bill provides more stability to the funding of commissioners' agricultural programs which include identification of pests and disease, oversight of pesticide applications, and plant inspections. "This bill recognizes long standing cooperative missions of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Pesticide Regulation and the County Agricultural Commissioners who carry out State agricultural enforcement activities and deliver agricultural programs at the local level," stated Earl McPhail, President of California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association. "It will provide an equitable method of fund distribution to support important state and local functions related to pest eradication, pest detection, pesticide

use enforcement and other similar programs. We thank Assembly Agriculture Committee Chair Nicole Parra and the Committee staff for their leadership and support on this important issue for the Agricultural Commissioners," added McPhail.

**AB 1717** (Agriculture) was sponsored by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), and makes changes to the Food and Agriculture Code relative to the regulation of pesticides and the prosecution of pesticide violations. "This bill provides consistent enforcement for structural pest fumigations as well as enhanced oversight by county agricultural commissioners, who serve as DPR's local enforcement agents," said DPR Director Mary-Ann Warmerdam. "We appreciate the work and support of Chairwoman Parra and the Assembly Agriculture Committee."

**AB 1718** (Agriculture) was sponsored by the Committee on Agriculture, and represented the annual omnibus bill, comprised of various changes necessary to effectuate the business of the agricultural industry in the state.

**AB 1735** (Agriculture) was sponsored by the Committee on Agriculture, and included several technical changes to conform California statute to federal milk product guidelines. "The dairy farm and milk product standards updated in this bill will bring California requirements into greater conformity with national standards and help to ensure the continued safety and high quality of California's milk and dairy food supply," said the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

---

### **Constituents Visit Sacramento**

I am pleased to announce that the **County of Fresno** has been awarded a \$750,000 grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board to address cleanup of solid waste disposal and co-disposal sites.

---

### **In the District**

I want to share an innovative program recently launched in Kern County. **2-1-1 Kern County**, a program of Community Action Partnership of Kern will provide comprehensive Information and Referral services that links Kern County residents to community health and human services and support. Services will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to all residents in the county. Callers seeking assistance dial 2-1-1 and are connected with Information and Referral Specialist who utilize a database to provide information on services such as food, transportation, rent/financial aid, and child care. For additional information, visit: [www.capk.org/211.htm](http://www.capk.org/211.htm)

It has been a very busy and exciting time in the district. In **Kern County**, I enjoyed a wonderful time spent reading to a **1<sup>st</sup> grade class at El Camino Real School in Arvin**. I also joined my friends and constituents in attending the **62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Holidays Grand Festival and Parade in Delano**. I appreciated the opportunity to meet with the **Kern County Hispanic Chamber** to discuss the Special Session and legislative priorities for 2008 and State **Farm Insurance employees in Bakersfield** to discuss a number of insurance issues and recent state

actions.

In **Kings County**, I hosted a public safety discussion and tour with **Assembly Public Safety Committee Chairman Jose Solorio, Kings County Sheriff Chris Jordan, Hanford Police Chief Carlos Mestas, Corcoran Police Chief Reuben Shortnacy, and Lemoore Police Chief Kimberly Morrell**. We met to discuss ways to combat the region's growing methamphetamine problem and toured the Kings County Jail in Hanford.

In **Tulare County**, I attended the **California Grape and Tree Fruit League Harvest Event**, a terrific agricultural event. I also want to thank the many fine members of the **Latino Peace Officers Association** for inviting me to join them for their 2007 Tulare County Gala.

**I also joined hundreds of others at the First Annual Summit of the San Joaquin Valley Partnership, held in Tulare County.** The keynote speaker was Dr. Mark Drabenstott, director of the Center for the Study of Rural America and author of *Rural America in a New Century*. Dr. Drabenstott provided a powerful message about the need for regional governance as the Central Valley moves forward into the twenty-first century. At the summit, the Partnership released its first annual report of valley indicators, along with recommendations in 10 various sectors affecting the valley, and a lengthy list of Partnership progress and accomplishments to date. The annual report can be found at [www.sjvpartnership.org](http://www.sjvpartnership.org).

---

### **Meeting Requests**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov)

---

### **Internships**

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov)

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: [Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: [Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov)


**Bakersfield Office:**

601 24th St.,  
Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: (661) 334-3745  
Fax: (661) 334-3796

**Hanford Office:**

321 N. Douty St.,  
Suite B  
Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone: (559) 585-7170  
Fax: (559) 585-7175

**Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
Phone: (916) 319-2030  
Fax: (916) 319-2130

**Email:** [Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov)

**Web Site:** <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

If you wish to no longer receive email notifications please click the following link to [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)  
If you wish to receive email updates in the future please click the following link to [SUBSCRIBE](#)